

IN THE CLAIMS

Please add the following new claims 18-69:

18. A method for producing a domain name, wherein the domain name includes only symbols from a set of allowed symbols, comprising the steps of:

- (a) obtaining a second domain name, wherein the second domain name includes at least one symbol that is not included in the set of allowed symbols;
- (b) converting the second domain name into a format that includes only symbols from the set of allowed symbols; and
- (c) automatically appending a redirector string to the converted second domain name to produce the domain name, wherein the redirector string includes information for resolving the domain name.

19. The method of Claim 18, wherein step (c) comprises automatically appending a predetermined string to the converted second domain name to produce the domain name.

20. The method of Claim 18, wherein step (c) comprises automatically appending at least one domain level to the converted second domain name to produce the domain name.

21. The method of Claim 18, wherein the set of allowed symbols comprises the uppercase letters A-Z, the lowercase letters a-z, and the hyphen-minus sign.

22. The method of Claim 18, wherein the set of allowed symbols comprises symbols specified in RFC 1035.

23. The method of Claim 18, further comprising the step of
(d) transmitting the domain name to a domain name server so that the domain name server can provide information corresponding to the domain name.

24. The method of Claim 23, wherein step (d) comprises transmitting the domain name to the domain name server so that the domain name server can provide an Internet protocol number corresponding to the domain name.

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25. The method of Claim 23, further comprising the step of
(e) transmitting at least a portion of the domain name to a root server so that the root server can provide information corresponding to the domain name.

26. The method of Claim 25, wherein step (e) comprises transmitting the portion of the domain name to the root server so that the root server can provide an Internet protocol number corresponding to the domain name.

27. The method of Claim 18, further comprising the step of
(d) transmitting at least a portion of the domain name to a domain name server so that the domain name server can provide information corresponding to the domain name.

28. The method of Claim 18, wherein step (a) is transparent to a user.

29. A method for producing a domain name, wherein the domain name is in a first format, comprising the steps of:

- (a) obtaining a plurality of symbols, wherein the plurality of symbols are in a second format, and wherein the second format is different from the first format;
- (b) converting the plurality of symbols into a second plurality of symbols, wherein the second plurality of symbols are in the first format; and
- (c) automatically appending a redirector string to the second plurality of symbols to produce the domain name, wherein the redirector string includes information for resolving the domain name.

30. The method of Claim 29, wherein step (c) comprises automatically appending a predetermined string to the second plurality of symbols to produce the domain name.

31. The method of Claim 29, wherein step (c) comprises automatically appending at least one domain level to the second plurality of symbols to produce the domain name.

32. The method of Claim 29, wherein the first format includes symbols comprising the uppercase letters A-Z, the lowercase letters a-z, and the hyphen/minus sign.

33. The method of Claim 29, wherein the first format includes symbols allowed by RFC 1035 and the second format includes symbols that are not allowed by RFC 1035.

34. The method of Claim 29, further comprising the step of
(d) transmitting the domain name to a domain name server so that the domain name server can provide information corresponding to the domain name.

35. The method of Claim 34, wherein step (d) comprises transmitting the domain name to the domain name server so that the domain name server can provide an Internet protocol number corresponding to the domain name.

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36. The method of Claim 34, further comprising the step of
(e) transmitting a portion of the domain name to a root server so that the root server can provide information corresponding to the domain name.

37. The method of Claim 36, wherein step (e) comprises transmitting the portion of the domain name to the root server so that the root server can provide an Internet protocol number corresponding to the domain name.

38. The method of Claim 29, further comprising the step of
(e) transmitting at least a portion of the domain name to a domain name server so that the domain name server can provide information corresponding to the domain name.

39. The method of Claim 29, wherein step (a) is transparent to a user.

40. A domain name that includes only symbols from a set of allowed symbols, wherein the domain name is produced from the method comprising the steps of:

- (a) obtaining a second domain name, wherein the second domain name includes at least one symbol that is not included in the set of allowed symbols;
- (b) converting the second domain name into a format that includes only symbols from the set of allowed symbols; and
- (c) automatically appending a redirector string to the converted second domain name to produce the domain name, wherein the redirector string includes information for resolving the domain name.

41. The method of Claim 38, wherein step (c) comprises automatically appending a predetermined string to the converted second domain name to produce the domain name.

42. The method of Claim 39, wherein step (c) comprises automatically appending at least one domain level to the converted second domain name to produce the domain name.

43. A method for providing information that corresponds to a domain name, wherein the domain name includes only symbols from a set of allowed symbols, comprising the steps of:

(a) receiving the domain name, wherein the domain was produced by

- i. obtaining a second domain name, wherein the second domain name includes at least one symbol that is not included in the set of allowed symbols;
- ii. converting the second domain name into a format that includes only symbols from the set of allowed symbols; and
- iii. automatically appending a redirector string to the converted second domain name to produce the domain name, wherein the redirector string includes information for resolving the domain name; and

(b) submitting the domain name to a database so that the information can be provided.

44. The method of Claim 43, wherein

- (a) the second domain name includes at least three domain levels; and
- (b) the domain name includes only two domain levels.

45. The method of Claim 43, wherein the information comprises an Internet protocol number.

46. The method of Claim 43, wherein step (a)(i) is transparent to a user.

47. A method for producing a domain name, comprising the steps of:

- (a) receiving a second domain name, wherein the second domain name includes at least one symbol that is not included in a set of allowed symbols;
- (b) converting the second domain name into a format that includes only symbols from the set of allowed symbols; and
- (c) automatically appending a redirector string to the converted second domain name to produce the domain name, wherein the redirector string includes information for resolving the domain name.

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48. The method of Claim 47, wherein step (c) comprises automatically appending a predetermined string to the converted second domain name to produce the domain name.

49. The method of Claim 47, wherein step (a) comprises receiving the second domain name by a software program loaded on a computer of a user.

50. A method for producing a domain name, comprising the steps of:

- (a) receiving a plurality of symbols, wherein the plurality of symbols are in a first format;
- (b) converting the plurality of symbols into a second plurality of symbols, wherein the second plurality of symbols are in a second format, wherein the first format is different from the second format; and
- (c) automatically appending a redirector string to the second plurality of symbols to produce the domain name, wherein the redirector string includes information for resolving the domain name.

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51. The method of Claim 50, wherein step (c) comprises automatically appending a predetermined string to the second plurality of symbols to produce the domain name.

52. The method of Claim 50, wherein step (a) comprises receiving the second plurality of symbols by a software program loaded on a computer of a user.

53. A method for resolving a domain name, comprising the steps of:

(a) receiving a first plurality of symbols by a first software program, wherein the first plurality of symbols are in a first format;

(b) transmitting the first plurality of symbols from the first software program to a second software program, wherein the second software program includes instructions for

- i. converting the first plurality of symbols into a second plurality of symbols, wherein the second plurality of symbols are in a second format, wherein the first format is different from the second format, and
- ii. automatically appending a redirector string to the second plurality of symbols to produce the domain name, wherein the redirector string includes information for resolving the domain name; and

(c) transmitting the domain name from the second software program to a third software program, wherein the third software program includes instructions for

- i. transmitting the domain name to a server; and
- ii. receiving from the server in response thereto information corresponding to the domain name.

54. The method of Claim 53, wherein step (b)(ii) comprises automatically appending at least one domain level to the second plurality of symbols to produce the domain name.

55. The method of Claim 53, wherein step (c)(ii) comprises receiving from the server in response to the transmission of the domain name an Internet protocol number corresponding to the domain name.

56. A device for producing a domain name comprising a memory having instructions stored therein for:

- (a) obtaining a first plurality of symbols, wherein the first plurality of symbols are in a first format;
- (b) converting the first plurality of symbols into a second plurality of symbols, wherein the second plurality of symbols are in a second format, wherein the second format is different from the first format; and
- (c) automatically appending a redirector string to the second plurality of symbols to produce the domain name, wherein the redirector string includes information for resolving the domain name.

57. The device of Claim 56, wherein the second format specifies only symbols from a set of allowed symbols and the first format specifies at least one symbol that is not included in the set of allowed symbols.

58. The device of claim 56, wherein the redirector string comprises at least one domain level.

59. A method for producing a domain name, wherein the domain name includes only symbols from a set of allowed symbols, comprising the steps of:

- (a) converting a second domain name, which includes at least one symbol that is not included in the set of allowed symbols, into a format that includes only symbols from the set of allowed symbols; and
- (b) automatically appending a redirector string to the converted second domain name to produce the domain name, wherein the redirector string includes information for resolving the domain name.

60. The method of Claim 59, wherein the redirector string indicates that the domain name is an international domain name.

61. The method of Claim 59, wherein the redirector string comprises at least one domain level.

62. A method for producing a domain name, comprising the steps of:

- (a) converting a first plurality of symbols into a second plurality of symbols, wherein the first plurality of symbols are in a first format, wherein the second plurality of symbols are in a second format, and wherein the first format is different from the second format; and
- (b) automatically appending a redirector string to the second plurality of symbols to produce the domain name, wherein the redirector string includes information for resolving the domain name.

63. The method of Claim 62, wherein the redirector string indicates that the domain name is an international domain name.

64. The method of Claim 62, wherein the redirector string comprises at least one domain level.

65. The method of Claim 62, wherein the second format includes symbols allowed by RFC 1035 and the first format includes symbols that are not allowed by RFC 1035.

66. A method for providing information that corresponds to a domain name, comprising the steps of:

(a) receiving the domain name, wherein the domain was produced by

- i. converting a second domain that includes at least one symbol that is not included in a set of allowed symbols name into a format that includes only symbols from the set of allowed symbols; and
- ii. automatically appending a redirector string to the converted second domain name to produce the domain name, wherein the redirector string includes information for resolving the domain name; and

(b) submitting the domain name to a database so that the information can be provided:

67. The method of Claim 66, wherein

- (a) the second domain name includes at least three domain levels; and
- (b) the domain name includes only two domain levels.

68. The method of Claim 66, wherein the redirector string indicates that the domain name is an international domain name.

69. The method of Claim 66, wherein the redirector string comprises at least one domain level.